

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN CHARLES SIMPSON'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF DEARBORN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Charles Simpson on the occasion of his retirement from the Dearborn Fire Department after almost 25 years of service to the City of Dearborn, Michigan. His significant service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Captain Simpson joined the Dearborn Fire Department in 1998 and that same year received the Fire Chief Life Saving Award. He consistently moved up the ranks of the Department, being promoted to Fire Engineer in 2007, Lieutenant in 2012, and finally Captain in 2017. Captain Simpson's dedication to duty is evident in earning a Perfect Attendance award 3 times in his career, as well as completing the Rope Rescue Operations training in 2016. Over the course of his extensive career, Captain Simpson has been the recipient of countless awards for excellence in service including the Fire Chief Life Saving Award, Fire Chief Unit Commendation, multiple Meritorious Company Commendations, Fire Chief Company Citation, and the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Charles Simpson for his exemplary 25 years of service. He has selflessly served the City of Dearborn in his role as a Captain of the Fire Department and has been steadfastly dedicated to the safety of our community. I join with Captain Simpson's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

GERMANY STANDS FOR
DEMOCRACY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, friends of democracy are grateful that today the Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz, announced in a speech before the German Federal Parliament that Berlin will send German-made Leopard 2 tanks to defend Ukraine. Germany is well represented in Washington with Ambassador Emily Haber.

Chancellor Scholz recognizes we are in a worldwide competition of democracies with Rule of Law opposed by authoritarians with Rule of Gun.

This was an historic decision by the German government and one which will help Ukraine in its time of need as a renewed Putin spring of offensive likely draws near. This decision will not only help Ukraine win on the battlefield, and

save thousands of lives, but it will also enhance European and transatlantic security. I am also appreciative that our Polish allies are making a vital contribution by sending their own tanks to support Ukraine.

There is no doubt that the decision by President Biden to finally send American-made M1 Abrams tanks was essential in convincing our German allies to send the Leopard tanks to Ukraine. However, I am deeply concerned that it may take months for the Abrams tanks to reach Ukraine, time that the innocent people of Ukraine cannot afford.

Unfortunately, the administration continues to block essential weapons like the long-range Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), which could help Ukraine win on the battlefield and end the conflict sooner. The ATACMS are crucial for Ukraine to defend itself against attack from Iranian drone systems and Russian forces based in Crimea. I call on President Biden to do the right thing and give Ukraine what it needs.

I especially appreciate Germany in that my home county of Lexington, South Carolina, was originally named Saxe Gotha being settled by enterprising German farmers. Also my maternal family was significantly German with my ancestor Daniel Weisiger born in Frankfurt in 1803, immigrating from Rotherdam in 1830 to Philadelphia then to Chesapeake, Virginia. I am named for his son David Addison Weisiger of Petersburg, Virginia.

God Bless the United States of America. God Bless Germany. God Bless Ukraine. God Bless President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine will achieve victory.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LISA RENEE RANSOM, EXTRAORDINARY MARYLANDER, CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER, AND PUBLIC SERVANT.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Lisa Renee Ransom, who sadly passed away just a few days ago. I join countless people across Maryland and the country in mourning Lisa and in wishing strength to her loved ones as they cope with this terrible loss.

Throughout her life—which was tragically cut short—Lisa distinguished herself as a public servant and as a champion for greater equity, justice, and progress in America. She spent more than a dozen years in service to the American people as a Congressional staffer here in the House. Early in her career, she worked as an advisor to her lauded grandfather, Congressman Augustus 'Gus' Hawkins. She also served on the staffs of Representatives MAXINE WATERS and John Olver, helping them—and this entire institution—address challenges facing our economy and the work-

ers and families upon which it depends. She understood that promoting economic justice is essential to fulfilling America's founding promise to protect our citizens' right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." That mission continued to define Lisa's later work for organizations like the National Congress for Community Economic Development, the Center for Policy Alternatives, the Center for Responsible Lending, the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, and the Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation. From her support for the Bowie Economic Development Committee to her historic election to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, she also made important contributions to the state of Maryland. Additionally, she was a key member on the planning committee for my Annual Women's Equality Day Luncheon and frequently helped my team bring attention to pressing issues facing Southern Maryland. I will always be grateful for her partnership in our ongoing effort to build stronger, safer, and more prosperous communities throughout the state.

We were so fortunate to have Lisa return to the House just a few years ago to serve as the Outreach and Engagement Director on the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness and Growth. She helped ensure that the committee's critical work remained grounded in the real stories and experiences of Americans who must navigate the complexities and challenges of the 21st Century economy every day. I have long shared her belief that for Nation to continue outcompeting the rest of the world, we cannot afford to leave workers and underserved communities behind. Lisa and the Select Committee played an important role in identifying not only the obstacles we may face as we address inequity but also the tools and strategies we can use to overcome them. Indeed, throughout her career, Lisa served as a crucial voice for women, communities of color, and others who are too often excluded from economic opportunities.

Despite the gravity of her work, Lisa remained a woman of gaiety. All those around her appreciated her warmth and humor—her family and friends most of all. Our long friendship certainly brightened my own life. Whether through Lisa's service to her fellow Marylanders and Americans, her leadership in the community, or her personal interactions with others, a sense of compassion and joy was evident in every dimension of her life. Lisa's lively spirit remained strong even as I spoke with her in her final days.

Just as her work will continue to benefit countless Americans across the country, memories of Lisa's amity will continue to enrich the lives of all those lucky enough to have known her. I hope that knowledge will bring some peace and comfort to her many loved ones in this time of mourning.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in praying for them and in showing our gratitude for Lisa's life of service. May God bless and keep Lisa.

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